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Cc: [Campbell, Joy](#)
Subject: FW: EXPLO Systems - Shreveport/Camp Minden/Minden, Louisiana Update
Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 2:07:48 PM
Attachments: [Paige Delgado.vcf](#)

fyi

From: Delgado, Paige
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 1:41 PM
To: Webster, Susan
Cc: Walters, Donn
Subject: EXPLO Systems - Shreveport/Camp Minden/Minden, Louisiana Update

EXPLO Systems, Inc., Camp Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana
October 17, 2013

On 15 October 2012, the explosion of a magazine at EXPLO Systems, Camp Minden, LA prompted attention from EPA, LSP, etc. The explosion shattered windows in Minden, LA (approximately 4 miles northeast) and generated a 7,000-foot mushroom cloud. On 27 November 2012, LSP serves a warrant to EXPLO Systems and identified 6-9 million lbs. of unsecured M6 Propellant. From 28 November – 11 January 2013, LSP and EXPLO employees secured 6.2 million lbs. of M6 Propellant in magazines at Camp Minden. From 28 November – 7 December 2012, the town of Doyline, LA (approximately 400 homes) was evacuated during operational hours. Also, the Youth Challenge Program (school) at Camp Minden was evacuated as well as all non-essential personnel and operations at Camp Minden while the volume of unsecured M6 Propellant requires a minimum of a 4,000-foot safe distance, due to risk of explosion. The Webster Parish Prison at Camp Minden conducted shelter-in-place.

The EXPLO Systems site consists of 132 acres on Camp Minden, owned by the Louisiana National Guard. Camp Minden was formerly Louisiana Army Ammunitions Plant. In December 2004, DOD transferred the property to the National Guard after an NPL clean up for groundwater contaminated by Red Water. EXPLO Systems, Inc., under contract with DOD, conducted recycling of explosive powders and/or explosives from military munitions (cartridges for Howitzers) for commercial use starting on 24 March 2010. However, EXPLO demilitarized other munitions under subcontract to General Dynamic, the prime contractor for DOD prior to March 2010.

Based on the recommendations of the USARMY ESB and under the direction of the LSP, EXPLO employees secured the remaining unsecured explosives into magazines at Camp Minden by May 17, 2013. The second report issued by the DOD Explosives Safety Board listed stability concerns associated with long term storage of the explosives in the magazines and also recommended disposal of the explosives by open burn/open detonation (OBOD). Conversations with the ESB also indicated the likelihood of a magazine explosion increases within the next 2 years due to instability concerns associated with this material.

Current Situation



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A total of 98 magazines at Camp Minden are filled to capacity with approximately 18 million lbs. of M6 Propellant and other explosive materials including:

- 128 lbs. of black powder
- 200 lbs. of Composition H6
- 3-50 lb. boxes of Explosive D (ammonium picrate)
- 109,000 lbs. of M30 propellant
- 320,000 lbs. of Clean Burning Incendiary (CBI)
- 661,000 lbs. of Nitrocellulose
 - Requires wetting agent (alcohol or water for stability) – EXPLO has not maintained the wetting agent for 6 + years
- 15 million lbs. of M6 propellant – prioritized by stability concerns
- 1.817 million lbs. of Tritonal (aluminum/TNT) mixture
- In addition to the 18 M lbs. of explosives stored at Camp Minden, EXPLO currently owns 3 M lbs. of M6 propellant that is stored at Highland Industrial Park in East Camden, AR in magazines rented by Austin Powder Company. A total of 21 M lbs. associated with EXPLO Systems exists in LA and AR.
 - Ongoing coordination with ADEQ, ATF, and Austin Powder
- On July 19, the DOD ESB provided an evaluation of the available information on the shipment of potentially hazardous waste to the Webster Parish Landfill, LA and Union County Landfill, AR.
 - Explosives Safety Assessment – Risk Management Division, U.S. Army Technical Center for Explosives Safety
 - Approximately 20-30% explosives in material due to detonation in field testing
 - Low risk of explosion due to gas (methane) build up
 - Drilling through material for gas relief wells could cause detonation
 - Medium risk of detonation caused by landfill fire – Low risk of fire reaching depth of material, but with high consequences
 - Very low risk of sympathetic detonation due to separation of materials
 - Recommended not removing material
 - Coordinating with ESB for additional information, R6 CID, R6 RCRA, and LA/AR State Agencies
- On August 5, ATF revoked EXPLO's explosives licenses, restricting any "control of explosives."

- On August 13, EXPLO filed for Chapter 11 Bankruptcy.
- On August 23, the Webster Parish Bankruptcy Court granted a motion by the Louisiana Military Department that transferred ownership of the 18 M lbs. of explosives from EXPLO to the National Guard.
- EPA continues negotiation on the Administrative Order of Consent and Scope of Work with the PRPs – Louisiana National Guard, General Dynamics, Alliant/ATK, and EXPLO.

